## ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus is described for receiving a new policy tree at a network element in a network. The network element stores a current policy tree of classes for quality of service of packets being processed by the network element. Classes of the current policy tree are compared with the classes of the new policy tree. Classes of the current policy tree are selectively deleted and classes of the new policy tree are selectively added to the current policy tree based on the comparison of the classes.

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